

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants' gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-18, and 26-35 recite allowable subject matter.

Amendments

Claim 4 is split into two claims. Claim 4 is amended to recite that the medium further comprises at least one compound of formulae Id-Ie, rather than reciting that the medium comprises at least one compound of formula I selected from formulae Ia-Ie. Thus, formulas Ia-Ic are deleted from claim 4. New claim 36 recites the subject matter deleted from claim 4, i.e., that the medium comprises at least one compound of formula I selected from formulae Ia-Ic. Splitting claim 4 into two claims does not raise a new issue.

Claim 14 is amended to recite that r is 2, 3 or 4 and that the phenyl ring is substituted by L in at least the 3- and 5-positions. Claims 19 and 20 are amended to delete reference to "two or more liquid crystal compounds." Claims 22 and 25 are cancelled. Finally, claim 24 is amended to delete "liquid-crystalline." These amendments do not require any extensive further search and/or consideration and further place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

As mentioned above, claim 14 is amended to recite that r is 2, 3, or 4, and claims 19 and 20 are amended to delete reference to "two or more liquid crystal compounds." Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

"Objection" to Claims 4 and 24

As mentioned above, claim 4 is amended to recite that the medium further comprises at least one compound of formulae Ia-Ie, rather than reciting that the medium comprises at least one compound of formula I selected from formulae Ia-Ie. Also, claim 24 is amended to delete "liquid-crystalline." Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 16 and 21, 24

Contrary to the assertion in the objection, claims 13 and 21 are not substantial duplicates. In claim 13, L is defined as F, Cl, CN or a mono- or polyhalogenated alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl or alkenyloxy group having up to 3 carbon atoms. In claim 21, L is defined as F, Cl, CN or an optionally mono- or polyhalogenated alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl or alkenyloxy group having up to 3 carbon atoms. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections in view of Bezborodov et al.

Claim 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) and 35 USC §103(a), respectively, in view of the article by Bezborodov et al. While applicants do not acquiesce to all the arguments made by the Examiner in the rejections, the rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 22 and 25. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §102(b) and 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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